

Remarks

In the present application, claims 8 and 13 have been amended. The title and specification have been amended. Proposed amended drawings for FIGS. 11 to 15 have been submitted. Claims 8 to 14 remain pending. Reexamination and reconsideration in view of these amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Objection to the Drawings and Specification

The Examiner objected to the title of the application as not be descriptive of the subject matter of the invention claimed. While Applicants do not agree with this objection, the title has been amended in the interest of expedited examination of the application. Withdrawal of the objection to the title is requested.

The Examiner also objected to the Drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a) as not showing every element of the invention claimed. Amendments to the Specification and Proposed Amended Drawings for FIGS. 11 to 15 have been submitted. Applicants submit that these amendments have overcome the Examiner's objection. Entry of these amendments and withdrawal of the objection are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections for Form

The Examiner rejected claims 8 to 14 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as claiming features which were called out in the drawings. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Specifically, the Examiner stated that the recitation of inner and outer surfaces of the ends and the side of the outer housing of the cable clip were not identified in the drawings. In view of the amendments to the claims to remove reference to the inner and outer surfaces, Applicants submit that these rejections have been overcome. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Substantive Claim Rejections

The Examiner rejected claims 8 to 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Takeo, et al., Japanese Patent Publication 10-274359, in view of Meyerhoefer, U.S. Patent No. 6,044,194. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 8, as amended, recites in part a cable clip with an outer housing having first and second ends and a side extending between the ends. The side and ends cooperate to define an open sided space which is close off by a movable gate hinged at the first end and releasably attached at the second end. The first end has a recess on an outer edge for receiving a first tab in a first edge of a mounting opening and the second end has a recess on an outer edge for receiving a tab formed in a second edge of the mounting opening. The tabs and the recesses cooperate to retain the outer housing within the mounting opening.

Takeo is cited for teaching a cable clip with a first and second end walls and a side wall defining an open sided space. A gate is hingedly mounted to the first end and a catch to engage a latch on the gate is mounted at the second end. When the latch and catch are engaged, the gate closes off the open sided space. Meyerhoefer is cited for teaching the recesses in the outer housing which engage tabs of a mounting opening.

However, Takeo teaches away from the inclusion of the recesses of Meyerhoefer on the ends. Takeo, as the Examiner noted, does not teach or suggest that the clip include recesses around the first and second ends and the side for receiving edges of a mounting opening. In fact, Takeo teaches away from such a construction as the gate of Takeo would be fixed in a closed position and not be movable between the open and closed positions if the clip of Takeo were mounted as recited in claim 8. Indeed, as shown in Takeo, it is not clear how the clip of Takeo could be mounted to any surface or opening. No item or element of the drawings appears to be a mounting appendage. There is nothing to suggest that the clip of Takeo could be mounted to an opening in a wall.

Meyerhoefer does not teach or suggest that the grooves along the top and bottom of the clip include recesses for receiving tabs in the edges of the mounting opening. In fact, Meyerhoefer teaches away from the need for such recesses and tabs in that the shape of the mounting opening has a wide portion where the clip is mounted and a narrow portion which would prohibit the removal of the clip. Meyerhoefer further teaches away from the inclusion of a gate to close off the open sided space, and the narrow portion serves to allow entry of cables into the open sided space and prevent accidental exit of cables from the space.


Thus, there is no teaching or suggestion that the features of the cited prior art be combined as the Examiner asserts, and the prior art actually teaches away from this combination. For at least these reasons, Applicants submit that claim 8 is not rendered obvious by the cited prior art and that claim 8 is in condition for immediate allowance.

Claims 9 to 14 depend from and further limit claim 8. For at least the same reasons cited above with regard to claim 8, Applicants submit that claims 9 to 14 are not rendered obvious by the cited prior art and that claims 9 to 14 are in condition for immediate allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of claims 8 to 14 is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any questions regarding this Amendment and Response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative Alan Stewart, at 612.371.5376.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: September 3, 2004

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Amendments to the Drawings

Proposed amended drawings for FIGS. 11 to 15 have been submitted. These amendments include additional reference numbers to correspond to language included in the Amendment to the Specification above. No new matter has been added to the drawings through these amendments.